



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Accomplishment Report

The Alpena Fishery Resources Office (Alpena FRO) is located in Alpena, Michigan and works to meet the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fishery and Ecosystem goals within Lake Huron, Western Lake Erie, and connecting waters of the St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River. Activities include Aquatic Species Conservation and Management, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management, Aquatic Invasive Species, Cooperation with Native Americans, Leadership in Science and Technology, Partnerships and Accountability, Public Use, and Workforce Management – all of which are conducted in alignment with the Service Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future. The station is one of many field offices located within Region 3, the Great Lakes and Big Rivers Region.

### Partnerships and Accountability

#### Regional Directorate Team Meets on the Detroit River

*Submitted by James Boase  
Fishery Biologist*

On May 10<sup>th</sup> Fishery Biologists James Boase and Jim McFee from Alpena Fishery Resources Office had the opportunity to demonstrate some of their work in the Huron-Erie Corridor to members of the Regional Directorate Meeting on the Detroit River that day were Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley and Director of Great Lakes Refuges Jon Kauffeld from the regional office, along with Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Manager John Hartig and his staff including Steve Dushane and Stephanie Millsap. John Hartig arranged the meeting to get Charlie Wooley and



*Members of the Regional Directorate Team are pictured with a lake sturgeon captured from the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge on May 10, 2007. Pictured left to right: Charlie Wooley, Bruce Manny, Aime Bourdon, John Hartig, Jim McFee, Steve Dushane, Stephanie Millsap, and Jon Kauffeld, Photo credit: James Boase.*

Jon Kauffeld out on the Detroit River to tour some of the new properties managed by the refuge and to see some of the ongoing fishery research taking place within the refuge. BASF Corporation provided use of their corporate boat to shuttle the group to locations on the river and provided lunch at the Fighting Island Lodge located on Fighting Island.

Alpena FRO biologists have been conducting fisheries assessments within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) on the Detroit River and western Lake Erie since 2005. Research efforts have involved collaboration with USGS Great Lakes Science Center, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Alpena staff have worked closely with John Hartig when he was River Navigator and now as Refuge Manager to identify issues affecting aquatic resources within the DRIWR.

Alpena's current efforts have been focusing on an area at the northeast corner of Fighting Island where Canadian funds from Environment Canada and U.S. funds from the Fish and Wildlife Service Challenge Cost Share Program have funded phase one (pre-construction assessment) of a three phase project to build a lake sturgeon spawning reef. News of the joint US/Canadian project within the DRIWR was simultaneously released by Congressman John Dingell and Canadian Member of Parliament Jeff Watson, <http://www.dwfonline.com/PDF%20Files/Fighting%20Island%20Sturgeon%20Reef.pdf>, <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver/documents/IslandSturgeonReefWatson.pdf> and has since been picked up by the Detroit News, <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070530/METRO/705300384/1050/rss19>.

Following a tour of the Refuge, Charlie Wooley and Jon Kauffeld assisted with the lifting of setlines, assessment gear used to capture adult lake sturgeon near the proposed Fighting Island Reef site. Three lake sturgeon were captured that day with the largest one measuring over five feet in length. Charlie described it as the "highlight of the trip".

This project is an example of the Alpena FRO's commitment to the following Fisheries Vision Priorities: *Partnerships and Accountability* and *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*.

## Deputy Director Luthi meets with Alpena FRO staff

*Submitted by Jerry McClain  
Fishery Biologist*

Service Deputy Director Randall Luthi was in Michigan the week of May 13 to visit with staff and view various aspects of agency programs in the state. As part of the tour, Alpena FRO Project Leader McClain and Biologist Rawlings met Mr. Luthi during his visit to the Jordan River NFH and escorted him back to Alpena to meet with station staff. Mr. Luthi was accompanied on the tour by Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley and East Lansing Field Supervisor Craig Czarnecki. On the return to Alpena the group stopped to view and discuss the Eichorn Bridge road stream crossing project on the Thunder Bay River. The project, completed in 2003, was a large partnership effort to improve habitat for several native fish species and was funded, in part, by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Fish Passage Programs delivered by the

Alpena FRO in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. In addition, the group stopped to view a restored wetland site west of Alpena.

Following the tour, the group met the remainder of the Alpena FRO staff for dinner where the various programs of the station were explained.

This activity is consistent with and supportive of the *Partnerships and Accountability, Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*, and *Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management* priorities of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.



*Deputy Director Luthi, Heather Rawlings and others viewed the Eichorn Bridge restoration project on the Thunder Bay River during Mr. Luthi's visit in northern Michigan. Photo credit: Jerry McClain.*

## **Detroit River Work Featured on Detroit News Website**

*Submitted by James McFee  
Fishery Biologist*

Alpena FRO biologists Jim McFee and James Boase had the opportunity to showcase their Detroit River field work. During the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> biologist Boase conducted a phone interview with The Detroit News reporter Christine Ferretti. On May 23, 2007 cameraman, Ricardo Thomas, and videographer, David Coates, both from The Detroit News joined biologist McFee on the Service

research vessel Sentinel. Results of the interviews were published in the May 30<sup>th</sup> Detroit News along with an interesting video clip that is available at the on line link. Both can be viewed at the following website: <http://detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070530/METRO/705300384>.



*Service volunteer Aime Bourdon holds a lake sturgeon captured from the Detroit River as David Coates of The Detroit News records the action. Photo credit: Jim McFee*

The article and video clip highlighted some of the research Alpena FRO has been working on during the spring of 2007. The research was designed to assess historic spawning locations and to obtain pre-construction assessment data for a proposed artificial spawning reef. Efforts last year and this year have been to identify if historic spawning locations along the entire length of the Detroit River are still being used. Sampling locations are located in both US and Canadian waters with a majority of the sites falling within the boundaries of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This work gives biologists an opportunity to compare past and present species usage in given location. The target species for this work are the economically valuable walleye, lake whitefish, and lake sturgeon. Gear for capturing adults consisted of setlines and gillnets. Larval fish were captured by towing Bongo nets and eggs were collected using gangs of egg mats anchored to the bottom. The larval fish and egg work was performed by USGS biologists at the Great Lakes Science Center.

Most site locations changed daily except for one consistent location at the northeast corner of Fighting Island. Fighting Island, a large island found on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, is owned by the BASF Corporation and is the area of a proposed spawning reef construction project. This is a collaborative effort between many agencies both from the US and Canada including Environment Canada, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, BASF Corporation, DTE Energy, and the Service. A constructed reef in this location has the potential to be very beneficial to a wide range of species including our target species walleye, whitefish, and lake sturgeon.

Service biologists captured fourteen different species in gillnets throughout the survey and all were present near the proposed spawning reef site. The gillnet catch was dominated by walleye which ranged in size from 391mm to 668mm. The setline portion of the study yielded 59 lake sturgeon ranging in size from 722mm to 1725mm. All captured sturgeon were measured, weighed, tagged, and released. Two additional juvenile sturgeon (506mm, 350mm) were captured in gillnets at the southeast corner of Fighting Island. Larval fish and egg data is still being processed by USGS biologists. This project will continue in the fall of 2007 with an emphasis on capturing adult spawning ready lake whitefish and their eggs. Setlines will also be fished to continue collecting information about the river resident stock of lake sturgeon in the Detroit River.

This effort provided a unique opportunity to create new partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental agencies to achieve common Great Lakes management objectives. Maintaining these collaborative relationships allows for the most efficient use of limited human and fiscal resources. This project is consistent with the *Partnerships and Accountability*, *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*, and *Leadership in Science and Technology* focus areas of the Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future.



## St. Marys River Fishery Task Group Meeting

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen  
Fishery Biologist*

The St. Marys River Fishery Task Group (SMRFTG) met on May 15 in Brimley, Michigan at the Bay Mills Indian Casino and Resort. Major agenda items included the Lake Superior State University (LSSU) fish and wildlife beneficial use impairment (BUI) delisting criteria project, a review of preliminary analysis of the 2006 fish community assessment data, and review of the annual fall walleye recruitment electrofishing data. The meeting was hosted by Joshua Parish of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

Greg Zimmerman, LSSU, provided an overview of a delisting criteria project that has received Michigan DEQ funding and was seeking volunteers from the group to sit on the Technical Committee they will be assembling. This committee would review existing historical fish and wildlife population and habitat information and formulate restoration projects. The information generated by the Technical Committee will be taken to Stakeholders in the fall.

Dave Fielder, MDNR, provided a preliminary analysis of the riverwide fish community assessment that was conducted by the SMRFTG in August 2006. He provided a breakdown of the trends and abundance of major sport species including walleye, yellow perch, lake herring, smallmouth bass, and northern pike. The information will be presented to the Lake Huron Technical Committee at their summer meeting in July and a final report will be written by the task group that will be published on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's web site. For the 2002 report, Population Dynamics of the St. Marys River Fish Community 1975-2002, view the Publications and Products link on the Lake Huron committee's page of the Commission's website at <http://www.glfc.org/lakecom/lhc/lhchome.php#pub>.

Greg Wright, CORA, provided a data summary of the annual fall walleye recruitment electrofishing survey. He found that the mean benchmark CPE of walleye was 6.7 fish/hour electrofishing. The data also indicated that stocked hatchery fish comprise approximately 1/3 of walleye captured from the river. There was some discussion regarding the minimal incorporation of this information into the Walleye Stocking and Evaluation plan that is currently being reviewed by the Lake Huron Committee.

Creel clerks will be working a number of areas of the river this summer to gather harvest data. The MDNR will have a clerk on the lower reaches of the river and OMNR will have two clerks on the river, one surveying the rainbow trout fishery in the lower rapids and one surveying Lake George and the St. Joseph Channel. They will also be conducting a creel survey of the lake herring fishery near St. Joseph Island.



*The St. Marys River Fishery Task Group was established in 1997 under the authority of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Huron Committee to achieve a meaningful understanding and a joint strategy for enhancing and maximizing the fishery resources of the St. Marys River.*

Partnerships are an integral part of the Service Fishery Program's Vision for the Future and are addressed in the *Partnerships and Accountability* component of the plan.

## Lake Sturgeon Recovery Efforts Highlighted on Detroit Public Television

*Submitted by James Boase  
Fishery Biologist*

It has been four years since researchers from Michigan Sea Grant, USGS, Michigan DNR, and the Service first sat down to brainstorm on the idea of constructing an artificial lake sturgeon spawning reef in the Detroit River. Those early planning meetings, the research that followed, construction of the reefs, and the history of lake sturgeon were highlighted in a documentary titled "Giants in the River" which aired on Detroit Public Television on April 26, 2007.

Researchers and partners from Michigan Sea Grant, USGS, Michigan DNR, DTE Energy, JJR Consulting, and the Service were interviewed in the documentary. This is the second time the documentary has been aired on Detroit Public Television and since the initial airing on April 30, 2006 edits to the film have been made. Changes to the original film include the capture of the first adult lake sturgeon captured on the reef during the spawning period in the spring of 2006 and use of the reef by the northern madtom a state listed species in Michigan and a federally listed species in Canada.

Along with the documentary Michigan Sea Grant has developed an educational lake sturgeon display. Initial unveiling of the display was held at the Detroit Science Center located in downtown Detroit during the spring of 2006. The display has since moved to the Smith Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport located in Romulus, Michigan. For those interested in further information about the display or for a copy of the documentary you can visit the Michigan Sea Grant website located at [http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/sturgeon/sturgeon\\_exhibit.html](http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/sturgeon/sturgeon_exhibit.html). The site includes information about the exhibit, the history of lake sturgeon, a sturgeon quiz and links to websites of all of



*Biologists James Boase and Anjanette Bowen prepare to release the first lake sturgeon captured from the Belle Isle Reef on the Detroit River in May 2006. Photo credit: Bruce Manny, USGS.*



*Northern madtoms collected from the Belle Isle Reef in the Detroit River during May 2006. Photo credit: Bruce Manny, USGS.*

the partners involved in the project. Primary partners from the Service include John Hartig, Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) and James Boase, Fishery Biologist with the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO).

This collaborative effort provided an excellent opportunity to broadcast to a large public audience and provided an opportunity to explain the Service's mission and the role that Alpena FRO and DRIWR play in providing assistance for management of Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources. Specifically, information was provided about the efforts of the Service and its partners to rehabilitate native lake sturgeon populations in the Great Lakes and the role that Alpena FRO and DRIWR have in this endeavor. This effort supports the *Partnerships and Accountability* and *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management* priorities of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

## **Aquatic Species Conservation and Management**

### **Saginaw River Watershed Lake Sturgeon Project**

*Submitted by James Boase  
Fishery Biologist*

Beginning April 17<sup>th</sup> Fishery Biologists James Boase and Jim McFee from the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and volunteers Larry Hess, Barry Pulaski, and Larry Dinsmore began sampling for the evidence of lake sturgeon spawning in the Saginaw River watershed. This is the third and final year of the assessment work in the Saginaw

watershed. Alpena FRO has used a number of volunteers from both the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and their Partners Organization "Friends of the Shiawassee" during all three years and there assistance has been invaluable.



*The Chesaning Dam on the Saginaw River Watershed is one of several sites that have been surveyed for spawning lake sturgeon. Photo credit: James Boase*

Anecdotal evidence suggests that lake sturgeon use the Saginaw River watershed during the spring spawning season, but very little is known about the importance of this watershed to the lake sturgeon population of Lake Huron. The primary goal of this project is to document lake sturgeon use of the Saginaw River watershed for spawning, one of the criteria for delisting the Saginaw River as an Area of Concern as stated in the Remedial Action Plan. A number of other

partners have been involved with this project including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, Dow Chemical, and the City of Frankenmuth. This project is funded through the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

In 2005 and 2006 efforts were focused on capturing adult lake sturgeon as they were expected to migrate into the watershed in the spring to spawn and, if spawning took place, capture and collect their eggs. We used setlines in an effort to collect adults fishing mainly in the deepest sections of the Saginaw River where the Cass, Shiawassee and Tittabawassee rivers converge. Although one adult lake sturgeon was sighted below the Dow Dam on the Tittabawassee River in 2005 high water prevented the capture of the fish and no spawning was documented that year.

In addition to setlines, egg-mats were also used. Egg-mats have been used all three years and have been placed below the Dow Dam on Tittabawassee River, the Frankenmuth Dam on the Cass River and below the Chesaning Dam on the Shiawassee River. During 2005 and 2006 eggs collected from the egg-mats were taken back the USGS laboratory at the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor and incubated until hatching. Hatched fish larvae were then raised until their yolk sacs were absorbed and the fish could be positively identified. Most eggs collected in the system were either walleye or various sucker species, no lake sturgeon eggs have been collect thus far.

After three years of no lake sturgeon spawning documented in the watershed our final assessment will focus on the suitability of the system to support lake sturgeon during spawning, determine if habitat is available for egg survival, and if sufficient nursery habitat is available for larvae and juveniles during that first few months post hatching. Assessment of the habitat will take place during summer and fall 2007.

This project is an example of the Alpena FRO's commitment to the following Fisheries Vision Priorities: *Partnerships and Accountability* and *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*.

## **2006 Lake Huron Lake Whitefish Distribution Study Data Compiled**

*Submitted by Aaron Woldt  
Fishery Biologist*

In May 2007, Fishery Biologist Aaron Woldt compiled lake whitefish tagging data from Service and partner agencies in a shared database as part of a Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act funded Lake Huron lake whitefish distribution study. The goals of this study are to determine the spatial distribution and movement patterns of 8 selected lake whitefish stocks in Lake Huron and to determine the contribution of each stock to commercial fishery yields. The 8 stocks selected for this study are Detour, Alpena (Middle Island & Thunder Bay), Saginaw Bay, Burnt Island, South Bay mouth, the Fishing Islands, Douglas Point, and Sarnia. Partner agencies for this study include the Service, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Michigan Department



of Natural Resources, Bruce Power, Chippewas of Nawash, Saugeen First Nation, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

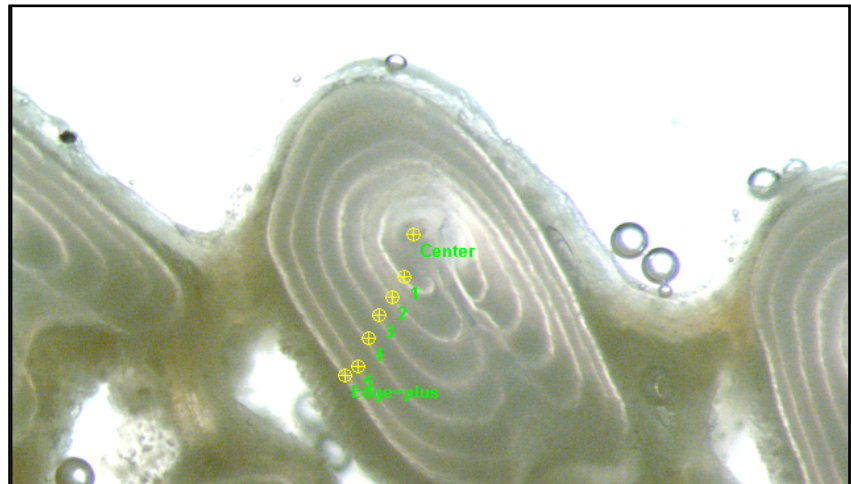
In the fall of 2006, over 12,000 lake whitefish were tagged by the 7 partner agencies across all sampling sites. From 2003 through 2006, over 36,000 lake whitefish have been tagged and released. Data was entered by each agency into a standard database designed by Woldt and sent to the Alpena FRO for inclusion in a central study database. Woldt provided each agency with data collection protocols and database formats prior to the study's start. Woldt has been working with agency data representatives to ensure data accuracy and timely entry. To date, 2006 data has been entered and proofed from 6 agencies. Once all data has been entered, Woldt will distribute copies of the central database to all partners. The full database is needed to accurately process tag returns and issue rewards. Each tag carries a \$5 or \$10 US reward.

Serving as database manager for this study aids efforts to determine the spatial distribution and movement patterns of lake whitefish stocks and to determine the contribution of each stock to the commercial fishery. This will allow for better harvest management and protection of lake whitefish stocks. This outcome is consistent with the Service's goal of maintaining self-sustaining populations of native fish species under the *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management* priority of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

## Lake Whitefish Age Determination

*Submitted by Scott Koproski  
Fishery Biologist*

During the month of May, Fishery Biologist Scott Koproski finished aging lake whitefish fin rays collected during the Lake Huron Lake Whitefish Distribution Study from 2004, 2005, and 2006. This study is funded through the USFWS Restoration Act, and there are 7 agencies (USFWS, Michigan DNR, OMNR, CORA, Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, Saugeen First Nation, Bruce Power) tagging approximately 15,000 lake whitefish lakewide in each of 3 years to better delineate lake whitefish spawning stocks in Lake Huron.



*A cross-sectioned lake whitefish fin ray is pictured above. Ages are estimated by observing growth patterns between the bands present in the ray. Biologist Koproski has aged over 800 lake whitefish fin ray samples collected during the Lake Huron Lake Whitefish Distribution Study. Photo credit: Scott Koproski*

Biologist Koproski began aging fin rays from lethal samples collected during the tagging activities by cross-sectioning the fin ray and identifying annuli present within the sample. The cross-sectioned fin ray is placed on a glass slide, a drop of vinegar is placed on the sample, and then the sample is viewed under a stereomicroscope. Two distinct growth patterns are identified using this technique: broad summer growth and narrow winter growth. By counting the bands of winter growth, age estimates are obtained from the fin rays. Biologist Koproski analyzed over 800 fin ray samples collected during this study.

This work is an example of the Alpena FRO's commitment to the following Fisheries Program Vision for the Future priorities: *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management, Partnerships and Accountability, Cooperation with Native American Tribes, and Leadership in Science and Technology.*

## **Aquatic Invasive Species**

### **Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week**

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen  
Fishery Biologist*

The Alpena Fishery Resources Office (Alpena FRO) got the word out about aquatic invasive species during Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week from May 22-28.

Biologist Bowen met with and/or provided invasive species materials to over 45 bait and license vendors along the St. Marys River and Lake Huron shoreline from Sault Ste. Marie to Bay City, Michigan. The goal of the effort was to make vendors and anglers aware of invasive species that may spread into nearby areas. WATCH identification cards were provided with information about two invasive fish species, the Eurasian ruffe and the round goby. Both species have been found within the Lake Huron basin and other areas of the Great Lakes. They are thought to compete with native species for food and habitat resources. Both are able to become abundant quickly and have become a nuisance in areas where they are found. The Alpena FRO surveys Lake Huron and St. Marys River locations for new and existing populations of these species. Neither species has been found in the St. Marys River.

The WATCH cards aid in the identification of these invasives, and explains to anglers how they can help prevent the spread of invasive species and how to report an invasive sighting. We are



*WATCH identification cards were distributed during Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week to alert anglers to the problems associated with invasive species and to encourage anglers to help prevent the spread of invasive species. Image credit: Gary Cholwek.*

hopeful anglers will take steps to prevent the spread of invasives and will report any unusual fish they catch to the Alpena FRO or their local DNR office.

Aquatic invasive species awareness is an important priority of the *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management* and *Public Use* components of the Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future.

## Public Use

### Summer Notes at the Pine River Nature Center in Goodells, Michigan

*Submitted by Jim McFee  
Fishery Biologist*

The Pine River Nature Center invited Service biologist Jim McFee, of the Alpena FRO, to give a presentation for a weekly program called Summer Notes. The Pine River Nature Center is a 5000 square foot log cabin located in the middle of a beautiful 80 acre track of hardwoods, along the Pine River.

The center is located in St. Clair County Michigan and is operated by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency. The center was built to give school kids the opportunity to be involved with nature. This is an amazing facility and is kept running strong by Lisa Appel the operations coordinator.



*Service Biologist Jim McFee begins his Summer Notes talk at the Pine River Nature Center. Photo credit: Lisa Appel, Pine River Nature Center.*

On May 23, 2007 McFee gave a presentation entitled Lake Sturgeon and Lake Whitefish Recovery in the Detroit River. This presentation was prepared as a collaborative effort by USGS and Service biologists. The talk gave a broad overview of the changes that have occurred along the Detroit River and the impacts of these changes over the last two hundred years. Following the overview of changes to the river a snapshot of the work being done for lake sturgeon and lake whitefish recovery interested all listeners. McFee touched on the Belle Isle reef construction project, the proposed Fighting Island spawning reef project, and overall sampling in the Detroit River used to better understand the resource.

Everyone in attendance was very interested with the changes of the past and the recent work that is being done on the river. Following McFee's presentation was a short talk from a member of the St. Clair River BPAC (Bi-National Public Advisory Council). Communication after the

presentations, with the BPAC member, helped to build a possible future partnership to help our valuable resources.

This effort provided a unique opportunity to create new partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental agencies to achieve common Great Lakes management objectives. Maintaining these collaborative relationships allows for the most efficient use of limited human and fiscal resources. This project is consistent with the *Public Use, Partnerships and Accountability, Aquatic Species Conservation and Management*, and *Leadership in Science and Technology* focus areas of the Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future.

## Alpena FRO Helps Out at Camp

*Submitted by Adam Kowalski  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

Fishery Biologist Adam Kowalski was invited to attend an outdoor educational camp from May 24-25 as an adult chaperone and as a guest speaker about fisheries for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Alpena Lincoln Elementary where his 10yr old son attends. The camp was structured as an educational experience of the outdoors along with periods of unstructured play time for the students. Since the focus of the camp was education Kowalski talked about the educational requirements to obtain a Fish Biologist position with the Service and other agencies.

Kowalski showed the students a model of a trap net, identified all the parts and described the size of an actual commercial trap net. Kowalski also discussed commercial fishing with trap nets and the use of trap nets as a research tool used by the Alpena FRO.

Kowalski set two small inland trap nets the night before the presentation, which allowed the students to see how they are fished and to help sort the catch. Kowalski then talked about other research done by the Alpena FRO, the importance of the data collected and what it is used for. Kowalski also helped out in other areas throughout the day assisting with a black bear population exercise, leading a nature scavenger hunt, a game of capture the flag, baiting hooks and untangling fishing line.

Kowalski's presentation is consistent with the Service's goal of implementing educational and outreach activities to educate the public about Service activities and is consistent with and supportive of the *Public Use* and *Aquatic Species Conservation and Management* priorities of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.



*Lincoln Elementary students assist Fishery Biologist Adam Kowalski in bringing in a trap net during a two day outdoor camp. Photo credit: Alpena FRO*



## Workforce Management

### **Biologist Co-instructs MOICC Course**

*Submitted by Aaron Woldt  
Fishery Biologist*

Fishery Biologist Aaron Woldt of the Alpena FRO co-instructed a Department of Interior (DOI) Motorboat Operator Instructor Certification Course (MOICC) at the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office from May 7 to 11, 2007. Stewart Cogswell served as lead instructor, and other co-instructors included Anne Sittauer, Dave Wedan, Bob Clevenstine, and Tim Peiffer. The primary goal of this course was to train new MOCC instructors to teach other Service employees to safely operate motorboats in the work environment. DOI Policy 485 DM 22 requires operators of all department watercraft to successfully complete MOCC training and complete refresher MOCC training every 5 years thereafter.



Cogswell, Sittauer, Wedan, Clevenstine, Peiffer, and Woldt staged an informative, well organized course that included classroom, pool, and on-water instruction. Instructors lectured on topics ranging from proper instructional techniques, DOI boating policy, MOCC course planning and logistics, on-water course set-up, boat orientation, state boating regulations, boat and trailer maintenance, emergency procedures, rules of the road, aids to navigation, towing, anchoring and beaching, slow and at-speed maneuvers, marlinspike, fire suppression, and weather. Students also delivered lectures on pre-assigned topics for class critique. Fourteen students received training and successfully earned MOICC certification.

MOICC and MOCC training are valuable curricula designed to make Service personnel competent and safe boaters. Teaching MOICC and MOCC courses is consistent with the Service's goal of providing employees with opportunities to maintain competencies, improve opportunities for professional achievement, and safely perform their jobs under the *Workforce Management* priority of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

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For more information about Alpena FRO programs and activities contact us at:

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